

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296508
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:KCDUGALL:CED
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN, JR.
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296508

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC CH US (LASHER, ALAN B.)

SUBJECT: US CITIZEN ENGINEER DETAINED IN CHINA

REF: PEKING 2911

1. DEPT BELIEVES USLO'S APPROACH IN HANDLING OF
DETAINMENT OF ALAN LASHER IS CORRECT. WE WOULD WELCOME
MORE FACTS, IF THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES
OF LASHER'S INJURY. DOES USLO KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE ANY
AMERICAN WITNESSES?

2. WE AGREE THAT THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THAT LASHER BE
ALLOWED TO LEAVE CHINA AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN VIEW
OF THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE
DISTURBED AT THE PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD BE SET IF AN
AMERICAN SHOULD BE FORCED TO SIGN A STATEMENT SUCH AS THAT
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DESCRIBED PARA FOUR REFTTEL IN ORDER TO BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE
THE PRC.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH PRCLO IF
USLO BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,
THAT WE SHOULD RESERVE ANY ACTION IN WASHINGTON UNTIL WE
LEARN THE OUTCOME OF AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH WANG HAI-JUNG.

4. ALTHOUGH OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN LASHER'S BEING
PERMITTED TO DEPART PRC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE ASSUME
THAT AMBASSADOR IN HIS MEETING WITH WANG WILL NEVERTHE-
LESS RESERVE OUR POSITION ON THE FACTS OF THE CASE.
CHRISTOPHER

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